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New York's Military Resources.

Senator ROBINSON'S bill directing Governor WHITMAN to order at once a State census of men and materials available for military purposes ought to be passed without delay.

In fact, such action should be taken in other States, following the lead of Connecticut, where the work of a military census is now under way.

The wise man of affairs before going into a new enterprise takes an account of his resources. We hope not to go into war, but if that shall become inevitable we ought to know what we have to fight with.

The time to find out is before the need becomes imperative.

The States and the Hohenzollern Senators.

While awaiting applause from Germany our Hohenzollern Senators might profitably study one day's news bearing on the public acceptance of their filibuster for Frivolousness.

Oregon wants to recall Senator LANE. If the State law of recall is found applicable to United States Senators, Washington passes in its Legislature strong resolutions in support of the President, whose course Senator WESLEY O. JONES of that State helped to block. The sagacious PONTREUX of that State, whose attitude in the Senate has been marked by sturdy and outspoken Americanism, did not mistake the frame of mind of his constituents.

In Missouri the Legislature had already adopted its resolutions of commendation for the President's policy before Gun Shoe BILL, sneaking up silently, stabbed it in the back. "Many telegrams of applause," says BRONX, "have reached me." No doubt, they were written in English.

Wisconsin applauds the President and by inference condemns LA FOLLETTE. But Battling Bos has just been reelected for six years. No metal or other cruel thing can touch him, though the action of Wheeling, W. Va., in ordering him not to dare to fill a lecture date there will disquiet him. What is the value of Senatorial notoriety if the Chautauquus be closed against you as an emissary of the Kaiser and not loyal to your native land?

The Arkansas Legislature upholds the President, commends Senator ROBINSON for standing by him and passes over KIRBY in the silence which betokens contempt. Only newly come to the Senate is KIRBY, emphasizing by his repeated acts of Little Americanism the loss that body sustained when JAMES P. CLARKE died. With VARDAMAN of Mississippi KIRBY raises the sole discordant note in the chorus of patriotism from the Old South. For them neither "Dixie" nor "The Star Spangled Banner," but "Deutschland Ueber Alles." Will not Mississippi act on VARDAMAN? The magnificent wrath of Senator JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, so fitly expressed in the Senate, merits seconding from the State.

Nebraska bids fair to rebuke NORRIS. A resolution to that effect has been presented to the Legislature, Ohio, Kentucky and Idaho have commended the President. And what about New York?

Is there no one at Albany with sufficient initiative to introduce a resolution denouncing former Senator JAMES A. O'GORMAN for giving aid and comfort to the enemy?

The American Virgin Islands.

In the turmoil occasioned by the filibuster against the bill to arm American merchant shipping the public has almost lost sight of what will undoubtedly hereafter be regarded as an important event in the annals of President Wilson's Administration. Just as the House of Representatives was about to adjourn at noon on Sunday it received a message from the President announcing that he had approved "An act to provide a temporary government for the West Indian Islands acquired by the United States from Denmark by the convention entered into between said countries on the 4th day of August, 1916, and ratified by the Senate of the United States on the 7th day of September, 1916."

In this act of Congress our new insular possessions are not denominated by any formal title; they are simply spoken of as "the West Indian Islands" and acquired from Denmark. At a mass meeting of the inhabitants recently held at St. Thomas a resolution was adopted in favor of calling them the American Virgin Islands.

has been proposed. As they have long been known to geographers and mariners as the Virgin Isles, it would seem eminently proper to preserve so beautiful and appropriate a designation.

The statute providing for the government of the islands is extremely simple. All military, civil and judicial powers necessary to government are vested in a Governor and such persons as the President may appoint, who are to exercise their functions in such manner as the President shall direct until Congress makes further provision in the premises. An officer of the army or navy may be assigned to serve as Governor, but whoever may be designated, he can only be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The President is to fix the compensation of all officers appointed under the act, and the sum of \$100,000 is appropriated for the necessary expenses of taking over and occupying the islands.

The local laws now in force in the islands, so far as the same are compatible with the changed sovereignty, are to remain in force until Congress otherwise provides, and to be administered by the existing judicial tribunals; but cases arising in the islands which have heretofore been reviewable in the courts of Denmark may be reviewed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, in the Third Circuit—the circuit comprising New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The tax and custom laws of the islands are to remain as at present, except that articles grown, produced or manufactured in the United States shall be admitted free of duty, and that an export duty of \$8 a ton is to be levied upon sugar. The validity of this export duty was questioned in the Senate by Mr. UNDERWOOD of Alabama and others, but Senator LONG of Massachusetts pointed out that the restriction of the Federal Constitution in regard to export duties applied only to the States and not to action by Congress. Although Mr. UNDERWOOD was not quite satisfied as to this provision of the bill, he withdrew his opposition, saying that he recognized the importance of passing the measure, even though the tax should subsequently be decided to be unconstitutional.

As soon as the purchase price of \$25,000,000 is paid to the representatives of the King of Denmark in Washington, the President is to make proclamation of that fact, whereupon the remainder of the act of Congress relating to the islands will become operative. This proclamation may now be expected at any time.

O'Gorman—A Hope Realized.

A patriotic physician in a neighboring town, who in his forty years of active citizenship has never yet voted the Republican ticket, was sufficiently moved by recent events in the Senate to send us on Monday this letter:

"I should like to ask how long the great State of New York is to be humiliated and disgraced in the United States Senate by Senator O'GORMAN."

"There ought to be some way of eliminating such men as O'GORMAN in a great emergency like the present."

There is. Mr. O'GORMAN has just been eliminated by the expiration of the term for which he was chosen six years ago this month, when his election resulted from the unfortunate combination at Albany to defeat WILLIAM F. SHEEHAN.

He is now busy explaining his motives for his course of action, but he is explaining from outside the United States Senate.

Thus our correspondent's hope was realized even before it was uttered. The Hon. JAMES O'GORMAN'S Senatorial career has not been distinguished at any time by especially useful or otherwise creditable public service, but his record for five years and eleven months shines with glorious effulgence in contrast with the concluding episode.

Zimmermann's Intellectuals.

It is popular now to apply the epithet "fool" to ZIMMERMANN, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose name is attached to the scheme to bring Mexico and Japan into alliance with Germany to fight the United States.

It is neither intelligent nor safe. It is probable that the Mexican-Japanese proposal was only one of ZIMMERMANN'S plans; it may have been one on which he counted little; he may have put it forward, not with hope of its bringing results, but from devotion to thoroughness, from a serious intention to neglect no possibility, of fortifying Germany against the United States in case of war between them.

We shall go as far as another in denouncing German diplomacy as unprincipled, full of duplicity, based on selfishness; in short, as being on all fours with the diplomacy of certain other nations that shall at present be unnamed by us; but we want further proof than has yet been produced of ZIMMERMANN'S intellectual incapacity before making up our minds that he is a fool, which we are asked to do now simply because one of his numerous projects has been revealed.

fect on the adequacy of the canal's defenses should be promptly accepted even against that of a successful literary man.

The point at which the General concedes weakness in the canal's defenses is in the provision for airplanes and anti-aircraft guns. This weakness, however, is common to all our defenses, even those of New York. The United States, home of the inventors of the modern airplane, has of all nations been last to recognize the value of aircraft in military and naval operations. There are more planes to-day used as playthings by our young millionaires than are at the command of our two armed services. There are more American boys flying in France, risking and giving up their lives in the cause of the Allies, than are carried on the rolls of the aviation corps at home.

This condition will be remedied now that the navy bill has appropriated \$5,000,000 for aviation purposes and permits the use of further sums from the \$15,000,000 emergency fund. It is fortunate that aircraft, unlike ships, can be built in a few weeks, and that the training of a skilled pilot can be perfected in from four to six months, as demonstrated in the military training schools of Europe.

The Secretary of the Navy, being now provided with funds and authority, should lose no time in beginning the creation of an effective aviation corps—far despite a few machines and pilots now in service, systematic work to that end cannot be said to have begun.

The Roach With the Message.

On the evidence of a man who has just finished twenty years in Sing Sing the cockroach of to-day is as worthy a friend of the prisoner as the spider of TRENCEN'S time was reputed to be. This man has seen and confirmed as historical a motion picture in which a convict tied a note to a Croton bug, or its larger European brother, which carried the message to a man in the next cell. Perhaps this was in violation of the spirit of the Mutual Welfare League, but it is more interesting than having the message carried by Tom BROWNE to a gathering of tear stained tea drinkers. The post roach is an insect worthy study. His wings, which we discussed some years ago, may be useless, but so is the wing of Mercury. Like his foe, that unmentionable bug, he gets there just the same. Give him a message from a kind hearted donor, a story man to a good natured doorman, and "neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Time was when the cockroach was hated and feared or despised. It seemed that he could never become endurable. Surely his ancestors, gambling among the dank ferns of the Paleozoic era, did not dream that he could get into the movies. But the ways of Time and the Scheme are inscrutable. Maybe it was decreed, before the first star pierced the night, that the hour would come when the lowest water bug, measured beside a filibustering Senator, should loom up like a prince.

Terauchi on the German Invitation.

Dr. ZIMMERMANN, speaking of his note soliciting Mexico and Japan to make common cause with Germany against the United States, says: "I suppose our step made a particularly deep impression abroad." Quite deep in Tokio, we should say. Amazement feebly expresses the mental receptiveness of Field Marshal TERAUCHI, Premier. In three vigorous sentences he deals with the low cunning of the performance: It shows "the persistence with which the Germans are exerting themselves to estrange Japan from the United States"; it would be "sheer madness" for Japan to desert her allies and assail her historic friend; Japan knows where her true interest lies, the American people may rest assured.

This is the comment that might have been expected from the rugged old soldier who is now the Mikado's adviser. The intrigue is too bold and clumsy to arouse his indignation. He says nothing about the reflection on the honor of Japan. The quality of that is too well known. A subtle encroachment upon it would be resented. Moreover, the Premier must feel that he is dealing with the act of a desperate Government.

Japan is in possession of Kiao-chau, which she has wrested from Germany, and is honored and trusted by her allies; then she is on amicable terms with the United States, to whom she owes so much; to be asked to detach herself from the glorious alliance and like a footpad waylay America, this is the folly and ignominy asked of her by a nation in arms against her. How low Germany must have fallen in the estimation of Japanese statesmen!

A Little Group of Wilful Men.—President Wilson.

A wilful group of little men.—The American people.

Somewhat we never read of a filibuster interfering with military legislation in the Reichstag.

Mr. BRYAN is convinced the Senate needs the cloture. Can't the rule be applied to him as well?

than a two-thirds majority, from voting at all on the subject to-day most important to American interests and dearest to the American heart.

BRYAN favors cloture.—Headline. He would like to close everything except his own mouth and the pockets of his audiences.

The next time JACOB R. STRUBLE, described as a "wealthy engineer and amateur aviator," flies over Fort Miley and Winfield Scott, near San Francisco, the sentinels will empty their rifles and try to bring him down. This is the order of Major-General J. FRANKLIN BELL, who will have no trespassing when the country is so near war. If STRUBLE wants to make his peace he will volunteer to fly for the United States army.

The Missouri Senator (Gun Shoe BILL STONE) has enjoyed the confidence of the President more than any member of the two Houses.—Despatch from Washington.

How thoroughly this fact illuminates some of the distressing and baleful incidents that have occurred at the national capital!

The Democratic majority in the Senate shows a gleam of common sense when it restores Senator THOMAS STAPLES MARTIN of Virginia to leadership. The senior Senator has brains as well as experience. The Hon. JONAS WEAVER KERN, whom the Indiana voters lately retired, had neither.

THOMAS WOLFF in the Berlin Tageblatt says that it was not immoral for Germany, "in the eventuality of war," to say to Japan: "My yellow beauty, will you go with me?" Herr WOLFF had better keep away from Tokio. Certainly the solicitation implied that Germany did not think Japan was an honest woman.

With the greatest reluctance I have come to the conclusion that we should have a compulsory military training.—Ex-President TAFT.

On this platform Mr. TAFT and Colonel ROOSEVELT can stand side by side in friendly rivalry. Mr. TAFT is going South to talk Treason. The Colonel has rendered patriotic service by writing about it.

The President's selection of an officer to fill the vacancy in the grade of Major-General made by the death of FRANCIS T. BURNETT will be criticized by those who know the accomplishments and sterling character of HENRY LIGGITT.

Germany finds it easier to start a Hindu revolt in Harlem than in India.

Our own State Department's record for explanations and explanations of explanations has been beaten by ZIMMERMANN, who is still going easily.

Some Senators who now explain that they were not wilful but deficient.

Persons who object to rice on the ground that the Chinese eat it should shun beef, which is the favorite food of the hyena.

THE JUSTIFIABLE LIE.

Who Tells It Becomes Responsible for All Consequences.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Some years ago in answer to the question, "Is it ever right to lie?" the following was published in the Sunday School Times:

"Telling a lie increases a man's peril, in whatever danger he finds himself. So long as a child of God speaks the truth he can leave the responsibility of his truth telling with God; but when he departs from the truth he becomes responsible for the consequences of his untruth. His only hope then is in the Father of Lies, and the devil is not to be trusted in an emergency."

MARY MEREDITH BROWN, MONTCLAIR, N. J., March 6.

The Erring Woman of Jericho Asked Reward for Her Lie.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I would like to ask Mr. Hulme and some of my clerical brethren if when the Lord commanded Joshua to perform certain acts, and in the fulfillment of that command he sent out two men—who under the circumstances could properly be considered as emissaries of the Lord—and Rahab to save their lives perpetrated her historical lie (Joshua 14, 4), was she justified.—C. K. KELLOGG, ELIZABETH, N. J., March 6.

Between Kicks, Self-Indicted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: When I read "White Horse Harry" I rushed for my clerical brethren and finding the type-setter responsible for the transformation of "Light" to "White" drew a long sigh of relief. As I sighed a shadow of doubt flitted across memory's horizon. I went back to my shelves. Lo and behold, "Light Horse Harry," the son of Washington's Lowland Beauty, was not at all innocent. He was the son of Charles Lee, who was afterward court-martialed, suspended for a year and finally dismissed from the army.

Shades of George Bancroft, Washington Irving, John Fluke, et al.: How did I do it?

The Man Who Rides Alone.

NEW YORK, March 6.

The Best Way to Keep Pork.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The best method we know of to keep pork is to slice it up and fry it until nearly cooked and then put it in jars. After it is packed tight in the jar pour the grease over it and seal the jar and then turn the jar bottom side up, letting it stand until the grease is cold. Keep where it is cold. E. K. W., COLUMBIA X Roads, Pa., March 6.

IF WE MUST FIGHT, FIGHT NOW!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why not fight now? Why wait for more indignities and crimes against our sovereignty? We have already suffered every form of shame and dishonor, which Germany has seen fit to force upon us.

Our submission is simply an invitation for other nations to treat us likewise when their interests demand it. Suppose, for instance, Japan should establish a naval station on the west coast of Mexico, or Great Britain on the east coast. What would or could we do about it?

Would we fight to resist such a menace when we will not fight in defense of our national honor?

At present we stand before the world branded as a nation afraid to defend the integrity of its territory and the flag of its people on the high seas.

American ships are tied up in our harbors from fear of German guns and torpedoes, while the ships of Britain and other nations pass in and out of our ports at will.

We must fight.

Right now we want a small war, for it will all be over soon. To submit now means a mighty war in the future which will drain the nation of its best blood and treasure.

To-day the Allies fight with us, to-morrow we fight alone.

It is true that our national authorities have ignored the warning of two and a half years and failed to raise an army for national defense.

It is true that our army and navy, small as they are, are still short thousands of men. We still have warships under repair and many of our services for want of men. We have no force in training for our new warships now building.

We vocalize, we authorize and we tax and appropriate, but still we get no men—our fighting force is not increased.

It will take a long time to train men for our warships and a year or more to gather, equip and thoroughly train the land force of a million men, which should have been raised two years ago.

These things shame us, but still we must fight. We will lose some precious lives and much treasure, but it must be done.

Whatever our punishment may be for our criminal neglect of defensive measures, let it come. It will do us good. It will restore our civic manhood; it will revitalize our patriotism and make us worthy of our fathers and of the priceless national legacy which they have handed down to us.

We have permitted our country to be honeycombed with foreign spies and with plotters and hired assassins, and have provided no efficient Southern force to repel and combat these hidden enemies. Our secret service is unorganized and untrained for this work and wholly inadequate in size for this difficult task.

When the signal comes, as it did to destroy the machinery of the informed and the uninitiated, our bridges, factories and other structures commences, we will pay the bill for our neglect in this direction.

We are weak and defenceless in many ways, but we must fight nevertheless. German Kaiser is still strewing the bottom of the sea with the bodies of American men, women and children murdered by order of his Government.

Supinely we accepted the hand of friendship of this monster when we knew it was dripping with the blood of our fellow countrymen. And now we find that at the same time his other "friendly" hand was trying to stab us in the back with the hoped for aid of Mexico and Japan.

When our benumbed Senate awakes finally to its duty the hand which it raised in defense of our country will be raised by the sting of the Kaiser's vipers in that body.

Every red blooded American should now stand up and demand that our sea rights be defended and maintained by force—that retribution shall fall upon the traitors and cowards of the savages who are now in command of the German nation for their unspeakable crimes against us and against humanity.

The time has come to put none but men in command. Our national destiny must no longer be influenced by the effeminate group of yellow cupped pacifists of the La Follette stripe. No more soft speech and gentle chidings for these teachers of treason. Let them be called by their right names. The man who will not fight for his country or countrymen, let him go. The man who will fight for his country and for the respect of loyal men.

The patriotic press which has done so much to stimulate patriotism should call for public meetings and demonstrations to demand vigorous action. Let us make our place on the free seas and to win back the respect of mankind for Americans and their flag.

Let every loyal citizen write the President accordingly. Offer him support in this crisis. Urge him to call the new Congress to provide for the safety of the country and the armed forces to protect our people and our national honor, for the time to fight has come.

JOHN HANCOCK, JR., NEW YORK, March 6.

Details of the Bryan Portrait.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: For filling in the Bryan portrait I beg to suggest as a background an open window through which may be seen a dense grove of poplars on a stretch of Holly Madison's lawn behind the White House. In the foreground Mr. Bryan, seated at the historic desk semi-officially removed from the Secretary of State's office and for the return of which a compelling demand should be made by the American people.

UNLIMITED DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

A Reasonable Plan for Limiting Debate on Certain Questions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The disgraced filibuster, engineered and successfully carried out by a few contemptible obstructionists, which has rendered the Government of the United States powerless to take immediate action to defend itself from foreign aggression, has opened the eyes of the country to the uncontrolled power which the present rules of the Senate place in the hands of a few men, nominally American, the least vicious of them pig headed, misguided pacifists.

At the present moment efforts are being made to change these rules, but it will be a difficult matter to secure agreement lessening the prerogatives now enjoyed by the Senate. At best the efforts will result in lengthy debate. What is needed is quick action.

I suggest the following: Let the Senate retain its present practice of unlimited debate on all matters of general business, but on all matters involving National honor, Foreign aggression, National defense, Domestic insurrection, and the necessary appropriations to make action effective—on motion, taking precedence of all other business, let the Senate decide by majority vote, after limited debate, whether a crisis warranting action exists.

Should the Senate by majority vote decide that a crisis of such character does exist, let the Senate then proceed to determine by a two-thirds vote, in the matter, debate to be limited and final action ratified by a two-thirds vote.

It seems to me that a proposition of this character should be satisfactory to any Senator possessing a grain of patriotism.

GEORGE C. PATTON, NEW YORK, March 6.

What is the President's Duty With Regard to Senate Rules?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The President of the United States has given to the press a "statement" declaring that the Senate's filibuster should be altered. This document is not in the form of a recommendation to the Senate for their consideration, as the Constitution suggests, but a vehement and somewhat excited appeal to the people. To say nothing of the taste exhibited, this outburst of words is indeed a most extraordinary performance.

What business has the President to advise the country what, in his opinion, should be the rules of the Senate? That body is competent to maintain its own methods of transacting business. It needs no lecture from the White House.

German defectors told the Southern bill. Burton talked to death an extravagant river and harbor appropriation bill. Unlimited debate in the Senate is a most valuable protection against radical and ill digested legislation, that under the gag rule can to-day be put through the House.

It is a really meritorious measure which surely shall have a vote in the Senate unless perhaps it has been brought up too late in the closing days of the session, Mr. Wilson's attempt to help along Senator O'Brien's cloture bill only thinly disguises the record of the incompetency of our present leaders to provide useful legislation in the Congress just ended.

Why did the President delay till an appropriation bill was imminent? Why did he not earlier consult Congress? The truth is, President Wilson does not want to call an extra session. He is not a man to call an extra session. Our public men believe it to be perilous to leave in President Wilson's hands the conduct of our foreign affairs, with Congress not in session.

Mr. Wilson's effort to inflame public opinion so as to bring about a change in the Senate rules is a desperate gamble. It can be depended upon to preserve the principle of full discussion, so vitally important as a protection to the rights of the citizen.

It is the plain duty of the President to lose not a moment of time. He should at once call an extra session of Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.

The President's Advice to the Senate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "The only remedy," says President Wilson, "is that the rules of the Senate shall be so altered that the Senate can act."

Not so. The remedy is to call an extra session. President Wilson is "playing politics." By deferring the call until June, a Democrat can be elected to duty in the vacancy created by the death of Representative Connally; and the Democrats may perhaps be able then to organize the House.

"It would not cure the difficulty that the sixty-fifth Congress in extraordinary session. The paralysis of the Senate would remain," continues Mr. Wilson.

Not so. Just call the extra session, Mr. President, and you will find the Senate of the United States prompt to do all that the country needs to maintain its honor and dignity. There isn't any "timidity" in the Senate. It is not "too proud to fight."

It is no part of the duty of the President of the United States to advise the Senate how it shall conduct its business. Call an extra session, Mr. President!

FRANK W. HACKETT, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.

The Eleven Defended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why not look the facts in the face and admit the probabilities? In judging of the actions the rule is to presume good motives if they fit the case. The President wished Congress to put abundant power into his hands and then adjourn, leaving him to run the Government alone and irresponsibly till next December; for in that case he would not have called an extra session.

Everybody knows that in this crisis Congress should be in session all the time. The eleven Senators who are now under such a fire of indignation adopted the only means by which the President could be compelled to call an extra session. Once the Congress meets, he has no power to prorogue. In my opinion, that was the motive of most, if not all, of those Senators, and little harm has been done incidentally. The new Congress will not be abjectly subservient to the President, as was the one that has just expired; but unquestionably it will support him heartily in every right thing that he does. His assumption that if an extra session were called the bill for arming our ships would be again defeated is entirely gratuitous.

ARMING MERCHANTMEN A RIGHT THE LAW OF 1819 DOES NOT AFFECT.

The President Authorized to Use the Navy to Protect Them Against Piratical Depredations.

Contrary to the view expressed in Washington despatches appearing in many of the newspapers, the law of 1819 does not at all affect the right to arm merchant ships. When the President sent before Congress a bill recently to ask for power to arm merchant ships he said: "No doubt I already possess that authority without special warrant of law."

This is all very true; unless, indeed, the power sought to be conferred on the President himself to supply arms to merchant vessels for defensive purposes be a new power. Such a right the owners of those vessels already have, and have possessed from time immemorial, and no legislation has ever sought to take it away. Furthermore, section 4293 of the Revised Statutes (a part of the act of 1819 referred to) expressly authorizes the President "to employ so many of the public armed vessels (of the United States) as in his judgment the service may require, with suitable instructions to the commanders thereof in protecting the merchant vessels of the United States and their crews from piratical aggressions and depredations."

The other paragraph of this act of 1819 referred to in the news despatches, specially authorizing the resistance by merchant vessels to any act of attempted aggression by search or seizure committed by other vessels "not being a public armed vessel of some nation in amity with the United States" (R. S. 4295), does not in the remotest degree impair the well established right to arm merchant ships for defensive purposes.

Such a right is clearly recognized by our courts. See *United States v. The Sloop "Hull,"* 12 Moore's Digest Int. Law, sec. 326. Indeed, the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1832, thirteen years after the act of 1819 was passed (U. S. v. Quincy, 6 Pet. 445), declared that no law prohibited armed vessels belonging to citizens of the United States from sailing from our ports. The exception in favor of public armed vessels of nations in amity with the United States, in that act of 1819, probably referred to the belligerent right of visit and search concerning which there has never been a question under our laws. That is to say, any German naval vessel would have

the right to visit and search any of our merchant ships to ascertain the character of its cargo and the purpose and destination of its voyage. The German Government, however, has now notified our nation that its merchant ships navigating the high seas are to be destroyed without warning. That such an act would be in the nature of piracy, as that offense is understood and condemned by the law of nations does not admit of doubt; and that the owners of our merchant ships may lawfully arm to resist such an act of unauthorized aggression is equally unquestionable.

Let the owners of our merchant vessels therefore arm their ships, for and self defense, and carry aboard an adequate number of skilled gunners for any emergency. Let the President in addition to this, in the language of the statute I have quoted, "employ as many of the public armed vessels of the United States as in his judgment the service may require" in the protection of the merchant vessels of the United States and their crews from piratical aggressions and depredations. If necessary, under section 4293 of the Revised Statutes, no doubt the President could instruct our naval commanders to supply merchant vessels temporarily with guns and gunners. It may be that under the threat made and emphasized by Germany reasonable defensive tactics would require the sinking of any German submarine which should come within the range of fire. It may also be that such a course would be preferable to a more formal state of war, but this would come about in the exercise of operations for defense clearly justified by the terms of Germany's proclamation.

Germany has notified this Government that she will destroy our commerce upon the high seas, irrespective of cargo, except for "humanitarian" and expected result has been to deter our merchantmen from leaving port. It is high time now that this blockade should be raised, and the issue forced upon us by Germany can be lawfully and properly and courageously met in the manner set forth. No cause for embarrassment or constraint is found in the provisions of the ancient statute.